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**House Committee on International Relations
Subcommittee on Africa, Human Rights and Global Operations**

**Hearing
Protecting Street Children: Vigilantes or the Rule of Law?**

September 13th, 2005

***Street Children: The Situation in East and Southern Africa
and the Need for a Strategic Global Response.***

Mr Chairman, members of the sub-committee, I am honoured to be here today and I would like to thank you for holding this hearing on street children. The issue of street children is a global tragedy and a global opportunity. This hearing comes at a time when the issue of street children seems to have largely dropped off the radar of the media, donors and Governments. This makes the hearing all the more timely and important, so again I thank you.

My name is Andy Sexton. I am the International Director for Children at Risk for OASIS, an International Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), working in 8 countries. Our work focuses on the urban poor, especially children and youth. I began working with street children in Australia in 1994 and then established street children's projects in three cities in Zimbabwe. In 2003 I joined OASIS and am currently based in Uganda. OASIS has projects working with street children in Zimbabwe and India and we have a project for the prevention of street girls in Uganda.

My testimony will focus on two issues:

1. The situation of street children in East and Southern Africa, with particular reference to Uganda and Zimbabwe
2. Specific challenges related to current work with street children globally and possible strategic responses

1. Background to the Issue of Street Children

1.1 Towards a Definition of Street Children

The term 'street children' is hotly debated. Some say it is negative – that it labels and stigmatises children. Others say it gives them an identity and a sense of belonging. It can include a very wide range of children who: are homeless; work on the streets but sleep at home; either do or do not have family contact; work in open-air markets; live on the streets with their families; live in day or night shelters; spend a lot of time in institutions (e.g. prison); are sex workers. The term 'street children' is used because it is short and widely understood. However, we must acknowledge the problems and wherever possible we should ask the children what they think themselves. In reality, street children defy such convenient generalisations because each child is unique.¹

The **UNICEF** definition of street children makes a distinction between children *on* and children *of* the street.

Children **on** the street are those whose family support base has become increasingly weakened (who) must share in the responsibility for the families' survival by working in the city streets and market places. For these children... the home ceases to be the centre for play, culture and daily life. Nevertheless while the street becomes their daytime activity, most of these children return home most nights. While their family relationships may be deteriorating, they are still definitely in place, and these children continue to view life from the point of view of their families.

Children **of** the streets are a much smaller number of children who daily struggle for survival without support, alone. While often called abandoned, they too might also have abandoned their families, tired of insecurity, rejection and aged up with violence (tired of violence in the family)... (Their) ties with home have now been broken... de facto (they) are without families.ⁱⁱ

1.1.1 What are the limitations of this definition?

The limitations of this definition are that it isn't broad enough to cover the complexities of the issue. There are many children who "fall between the gaps" in this definition. For example, there are children who come to the streets and live there during the dry or warm seasons, but go home when it is wet or cold. Also there are many children who live with their families on the streets. Child prostitutes, who work the streets at night and not during the day, do not quite fit into this definition either. In addition, some children who would be considered **of** the street have occasional contact with their families, while other children who are **on** the streets don't actually live with a relative they live with someone who is unrelated. It can be argued that children who accompany a physically challenged parent or other adult are a different category again.

1.1.2 Expanding the definition

One of the ways to resolve some of these limitations is to add a category of street children known as **in** the street children.

1. **Children on the street, or children with regular family contact.** Most of these children work on the streets because their families need money to survive. Many of them go to school and return home to their families at the end of the day. Besides working, some children are on the streets to have fun, to pass time or to escape the overcrowded conditions in their homes. Also in this group are children from squatter families and the slums. These children have nothing to do in their homes so they frequently roam the streets, returning home only at night or at mealtime. This group of children, not yet deeply entrenched in street life, are more easily reached. They especially need to be targeted by prevention programs.
2. **Children of the street, or children with occasional family contact.** These children work on the street, do not go to school and seldom go home to their families. This group includes children from poverty-stricken families. Some have come to the city from deprived rural areas; others are runaways. Many run away from home because of sexual or physical abuse, parental alcoholism and neglect or mistreatment by relatives. Home has become a place of fear and misery rather than security, love and encouragement. These children, if they are to survive, are faced with the need to find food and shelter daily. They also need to find a sense of belonging among their peers. Soon children come to enjoy their newly found independence, free of adult control. It is vital to get the children in this group off the street before they become addicted to street life.
3. **Children in the street, or children with no family contact.** These children consider the streets their home. Here they seek shelter, food and a sense of belonging among their peers. This group represents children who are detached from their families and are either living on the streets or in shelters. Some are orphans whose parents have been killed in war

or have died from illnesses such as AIDS. In addition, other children are abandoned by their parents because they are unable to care for them due to poverty, disease or personal problems. These children are not only victims of physical isolation but are also alone psychologically. In some cases these children have no memory of what home life was like. Working with this group of children is the most difficult. Because they have been badly abused by adults they should have been able to trust, winning their confidence is very difficult.ⁱⁱⁱ

1.1.3 Definitions using other factors

There have been other attempts to define street children using concepts other than family connection. They relate to **work, time, behaviour** and **location**.

A possible way of defining the street population is in relation to 'work'. According to this definition, children of the street are those who do not have a 'serious' job, but who wander aimlessly around the streets, taking drugs and living from anti-social or illegal activities.^{iv}

The length of time a child has been 'on the streets' has frequently been used to distinguish between categories of street-children types. Other definitions have tried to specify the number of hours a child has to spend daily in the streets in order to be considered a street child.^v

A street child is any individual under the age of majority whose behaviour is predominantly at variance with community norms for behaviour and whose primary support for his/her developmental needs is not the family or family substitute.^{vi}

Many children play on the streets but are not street children. There is sometimes nowhere else for them to play. Fabio Dallape (who directed the Undugu project in Kenya) has suggested using the word 'avenue' would be a better term than streets. Avenues, shopping malls, beaches, boulevards, railway and bus stations are all places where children are not supposed to be unaccompanied by an adult, and where nobody is supposed to sleep. Some people who work with street children therefore prefer to call them 'children out of place'.^{vii}

1.1.4 Why is a Definition Useful?

A definition is important for two main reasons:

1. It assists in determining the numbers and types of Street Children
2. It assists in identifying a projects target group

A definition is useful in order for practitioners to decide which children in an area are street children and what types of street children there are. This in turn can help them decide what group of children they will work with and what interventions might be appropriate.

1.2 A Global Tragedy

Given the debate over defining street children, there are conflicting estimates about how many street children there are. However, one thing is clear, there are millions of children living and working on the streets of the world's cities.

- At least 100 million children worldwide are believed to live at least part-time on the streets and work in the 'urban informal sector'.^{viii}
- 10 million of these are **of** the streets.^{ix}

Around the world

Latin America		40 million
	Brazil	25 million
Asia		31.2 million
	India	18 million
	Philippines	1.2 million
Africa		10 million
USA	New York	20,000

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1.3 Life in the Streets

Clearly, the experience of street children differs throughout the world. For instance, there are the average age of a child in the streets in the Western World is higher than the age of street children in the Developing World.

However there are also many similarities. A child who for whatever reason, ends up being forced from home or runs away, usually ends up in the streets of a town or city. Once there, they soon become part of the mosaic of street life. They usually join a group of children in similar circumstances and become embroiled in a life of petty crime, substance abuse, begging, occasional work, violence and sex. They also experience freedom and a life without rules, except the rules of their gang. Sometimes an adult meets them, as they enter the town or city, who then exploits them for their labour or bodies. They often end up sick, injured, HIV+, pregnant or even dead.

It has been proven again and again that the longer a child is on the streets, the harder it is for them to leave the streets. Also if a long-term street child does leave the streets, the longer they have been in the streets, the stronger the pull to return.

1.4 Causes of Street Children

There are both macro and micro issues that result in Street Children, including:

1. Social catastrophes (HIV/AIDS pandemic, ethnic conflict, trafficking)
2. Political catastrophes (war, corruption, wastage of resources)
3. Natural catastrophes (famine, flood, earthquake)
4. Poverty
5. Rural – urban migration
6. Economic collapse (unemployment leading sometimes to the loss of home, parents, family, education)
7. Family breakdown
8. Alcohol or drug abuse of a family member
9. Child abuse including violence, sexual or emotional abuse and neglect
10. Child labour and sexual exploitation

2.. The Situation of Street Children in East and Southern Africa

Africa is young, urban and poor. Half of the continent's population is under 15. Thirty seven percent of the population lives in towns or cities – the majority living in slums and squatter settlements. The average urban growth rate is estimated to be 5% per annum. Thirty four of the world's *Highly Indebted Poor Countries* are in Africa.^{xi}

The related challenges these statistics bring, are compounded by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. It is estimated that more than 43 million people have already perished from the disease. This figure

could rise to 200 million in the next 30 years.^{xii} UNICEF estimates that there will be 20 million HIV/AIDS orphans by 2010. According to the Alpha Orphans Generation project, Sub-Saharan Africa had 11 million orphans in 2003.^{xiii}

One of the results of the situation facing Africa is an increasing number of street children. Today we are seeing second and third generation street children in some African towns and cities.

The issue of street children in East and Southern Africa is a relatively new phenomenon when compared with the history of street children in South and Central America and parts of Asia. It only started to become a significant and widespread phenomenon in the 1980s.

The Civil Society Forum for East and Southern Africa on Promoting and Protecting the Rights of Street Children has quantified the numbers of street children in these regions.

Country	Numbers of Street Children	City	Number of Street Children
Ethiopia	150,000	Addis Ababa	60,000
Kenya	250,000	Nairobi	60,000
Mozambique	3,500 – 4,500		
South Africa	250,000		
Uganda	10,000		
Zambia	75,000		
Zimbabwe	12,000	Harare	5,000

The situations I will describe in more detail below are the two situations I am most familiar with. They are in some ways not typical of the responses in East and Southern Africa. However they represent one approach to addressing the issue of street children.

3. Current Situation in Uganda

3.1 Case study

**P. is one of a family of 6 children from Northern Uganda, who fled to Kampala with their mother when the situation in the Internally Displaced Peoples (IDP) Camp in Gulu was too much for them to cope with any longer. In constant danger of being abducted, or starving, the family came to find a better life in Uganda's capital.*

They ended up in a place called Kibuye, on the other side of town from Oasis' Bambejja Project. Local people took pity on the family, which includes a baby of less than one year old, and allowed them to temporarily stay in a small wooden shed. The mother was given some bananas to sell, and would walk all day long carrying a basket of bananas looking for customers. Neighbours would loan her saucepans to cook food in the evening.

One day, the mother found her way to the Bambejja Project, having heard about our services, and begged the social worker to take her family in. The social worker agreed to visit her home, not realizing it was over an hour's walk away from the project centre. On seeing the situation, the social worker instantly knew this family was in need of urgent assistance. P., now seven years, was enrolled into Primary Grade 2 at the Bambejja Catch-Up School, and the entire family shortly after were assisted to relocate to a more suitable dwelling closer to Bambejja.

P. could so easily have ended up on the streets begging or having to prostitute herself to survive. She is one of the lucky ones.

3.2 Country Overview

Uganda has a population of between 23-30 million people. It is estimated that 51% of the population is under 18.^{xiv}

Uganda achieved independence from Britain in 1962. Since then it has had a turbulent political history. Idi Amin was responsible for 300,000 deaths during his eight-year dictatorial presidency from 1971 to 1979 and the economy collapsed. One cause of this was the expulsion of the 70,000 person strong Asian community and the nationalisation of British plantations and companies. Human rights abuses continued under the presidency of Milton Obote during 1980 to 1985 – it being estimated that a further 100,000 lives were claimed during this time.^{xv}

President Yoweri Museveni came to power in 1986 and has been largely credited with the rapid development of the country since then. The economy averaged growth of more than 6% during the 1990s^{xvi}, and is now thought of as one of the most rapidly developing countries in Africa.

As a result of the development, rural communities have flocked to Kampala, in the hope of a better life. Despite advances made, the city is little equipped to deal with a rapidly expanding population and the result is an increase in the population of the slum areas.

The 18-year war in the North of Uganda waged by The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a rebel group operating under Joseph Kony, has also contributed to rural-urban migration and added to the slum problem in towns and cities. It is estimated that since 1986, 20,000 - 25000 children as young as 7 years old have been abducted by the LRA to act as sex slaves and child soldiers.^{xvii}

Uganda is one of the few African countries where HIV prevalence rates have declined, and it is seen as a rare example of success in a continent facing a severe AIDS crisis. Uganda's policies are credited with having brought the HIV prevalence rate down from around 15% in the early 1990s to 5% in 2001. At the end of 2003, the government and the UN estimate that only 4.1% of adults had the virus. The country is seen as having implemented a well timed and successful public education campaign.^{xviii}

However, HIV/AIDS remains a significant challenge. In research that OAS!S conducted in 2004, of the 102 girls it was working with at the Bambejja Project,

- 36% of the girls had no living parent
- 33% had 1 living parent
- 31% had both parents living

- 31% of the girls were AIDS orphans (death of both parents)
- 44% of girls come from HIV/AIDS affected families (where one or more parents or siblings have the virus)

- 12% of the girls were not living with a relative
- 42% of the girls were recorded as having a carer with significant health problems.

- 16% were originally on the street (none were recorded as currently on the street).

It is estimated that there are 10,000 street children in Uganda. The underlying causes are displacement due to the conflict in Northern Uganda, HIV/AIDS, urban poverty, and family breakdown.

3.3 Street Children in Uganda: The Government's Response

In May 2002, the Ugandan Government instituted a plan to remove children from the streets of Kampala, rehabilitate them at a renovated juvenile remand home and then re-settle them with their families. The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) was largely responsible for the formulation of this plan but it concerned the cooperation of the Kampala City Council, the Police and one lead NGO, 'Give Me a Chance'. The plan involved forcibly removing the children through 'round-up' operations, and then trucking them to the Kamparingisa National Rehabilitation Centre (KNRC). It faced legal challenges within the Government but was pushed through after pressure from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ugandan Tourism Board and other sectors of Government interested in "cleaning up" Kampala's streets. The First Lady of Uganda, Mrs Janet Museveni, raised the funds necessary to renovate KNRC.

Up until this point, there were many NGOs working with Kampala's Street Children. Seventeen of these organisations were working together within the framework of the Inter-NGO Forum. This Forum then engaged with the Government over the planned round up strategy. However their proposal of August 1st 2001, which included NGO involvement at every level of the plan, was rejected. This Forum then undertook to form the Kamparingisa Support Team, which committed to going out to KNRC on weekdays to provide various support programmes for the children including counselling, sports, education, drama and art.

Apart from the formation of the Inter-NGO Forum, other achievements had been made before the round-ups were implemented. *Practice Guidelines for Working with Street Children* had been written; a week of NGO to Government advocacy instituted in 2000; Family and Child Protection Units set up within the police force; a National Street Children Committee was established; informal education strategies and foster care schemes developed.

In the first forcible removal, 145 children were taken to KNRC including four teenage mothers. Since 2002, the round-ups have been continuing approximately every four months. While the total number of children that have been taken to KNRC is not available, a figure of 200 resettled was given by the lead NGO Give Me a Chance.

In May 2005, we commissioned some research into the validity and impact of this approach to dealing with the issue of street children. The draft report has been presented to the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (in the Presidents Office) for comment.

The research was conducted via interviews with Government officials, staff at Kamparingisa, children at Kamparingisa, street children, businesses and the general public. The findings reveal that:

1. The children taken to KNRC appreciated having a bed, consistent food and schooling.
2. The general public and businesses reacted positively to the decrease in the numbers of street children. They felt that levels of harassment and criminal activity had dropped as a result.
3. The round-ups and reception at KNRC lacked co-ordination, with the staff at KNRC sometimes unaware that more children would be arriving.
4. KNRC is under staffed by 50% of what is needed.

5. KNRC continues to be a remand facility for juvenile offenders and that the two groups, offenders and street children, are held together.
6. Adults are also picked up in the roundups and held with the children.
7. KNRC lacks electricity, running water and functioning toilet facilities.
8. Necessary medical supplies are not available and food purchased does not always arrive at KNRC.
9. Allegations of corporal punishment and sexual abuse were common amongst children who have run away from KNRC to the streets. One child respondent commented that "KNRC is not a place for children, it has no solutions just digging, slashing grass, hard work, fetching water and beatings".
10. The round ups have sent children 'underground' and there is now a community of children who feel they cannot be seen. They are ripe for criminal exploitation.
11. KNRC was more about hiding the problem of street children than helping the children. This plan does nothing to deal with the causes of the problem (the war in the North of Uganda, abuse in the family, children being orphaned through HIV/AIDS and poverty amongst the Karamajong people in the east of the country) and so there are always more children filling the vacuum left by the ones removed.

While there are street children in other towns around Uganda, the majority of children are in Kampala. In these other towns NGOs are also at work, probably the best known of which is Child Restoration Outreach working in Mbale, Mbarara and Jinja.

4. Current Situation In Zimbabwe

On 19 May 2005, with little or no warning the Government of Zimbabwe embarked on an operation to 'clean up' its cities. It was a 'crash' operation known as 'Operation Murambatsvina', referred to also as Operation Restore Order. It started in the Zimbabwean capital, Harare, and rapidly evolved into a nationwide demolition and eviction campaign carried out by the police and the army. Popularly referred to as 'Operation Tsunami' because of its speed and ferocity, it resulted in the destruction of homes, businesses and vending sites. It is estimated that some 700,000 people in cities across the country have lost their homes, their source of livelihood, or both.^{xix}

The result of this so called 'clean up' for OASIS has been that four of our staff are homeless, four OASIS pre-schools in high-density suburbs have been destroyed and all the street girls we have been working with, have been rounded-up and detained in an unknown location.

***B.** is one of the girls who has disappeared. She is 15 and was on the streets because her parents had died from HIV/AIDS, and her Aunt refused to care for her, saying that she was "rude". It was the OASIS Tanaka Project staff's assessment that her Aunt was already overwhelmed with her own problems and used the girl's behaviour as an excuse. **B.** was due to be in the next intake of girls into the Tanaka Project's Training Program. It is assumed that government forces took her to Caledonia Farm, but when the farm was closed she was relocated to a juvenile remand home. However although OASIS staff have been able to access one of these facilities, she was not amongst the 12 street girls that they found there. Staff have attempted to talk to the Department of Social Welfare in order to find **B.** and other girls that are still missing, but they have so far been unsuccessful.*

***G.** is another girl with whom OASIS has been working. Although we have been working with her for over a year, she was not ready to leave the streets. When was asked what issues she was struggling with on the streets, **G.** said, "The main problem on the streets is the Police.*

They round us up and then if you want to get out of prison they tell you, you must have sex with them first. Last week, they came to our base and we had no blankets then one of the Policeman said to me there were plastics round the back, which we could use as blankets. Then when I went there, he followed me and asked me to have sex with him. When I refused he forced me, he didn't care that I was crying. Its hard because you don't want to sleep with the policeman but if you don't want to remain in jail, you end up sleeping with them".

When the staff met her on the streets a few weeks ago, she spoke at length of her experiences of 'Operation Murambatsvina'. She reported that, " during the first 'round-up', the Police took us to a bush where they beat us up and left us there. We walked 15km to get to the main road we continued walking until we got a ride to Harare. When we got to town, our legs were swollen. We were rounded-up again and I was taken to Caledonia farm. I ran away 2 days later".

Historically the Government's response to street children in Zimbabwe has varied. This is not the first time that 'clean up' operations have taken place. In operations in 1996/1997, children were removed into the bush and left there or were taken to a disused refugee facility beside the Gonarezhou National Park called Chambuta. Many escaped from this place through literally lion infested bush, and returned to the streets.

At one stage, the First Lady of Zimbabwe, Mrs Grace Mugabe, raised money for rehabilitation centres in the main cities of Harare and Bulawayo, but nothing came of these plans. More recently the Department of Social Welfare, Councils and other Stakeholders have been organised into Task Forces on Street Children with funding from UNICEF. This follows a model that I was involved in establishing in July 1997 in Bulawayo.

Operation Murambatsvina has changed the whole operating environment. On my visit in June 2005 to Zimbabwe, I saw a state of total confusion. It could be argued that the downward spiral in Zimbabwe began in 1997 with the awarding of large payouts to veterans of the Zimbabwean Independence Struggle. This was followed by an economically crippling war in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Then when the referendum on changes to the Constitution went against the Government and they knew that in forth coming elections they were in danger of losing power, they embarked on various measures to retain power. These included the vote winning land reform process, infiltration of the Church, silencing of the Independent Press, stacking of the Judiciary, intimidation, violence and election fraud.^{xx} The results of the policies of the Zimbabwean Government have been economic and social crisis. Zimbabwe has one of the fastest shrinking economies in the world and has been strongly criticised by the International Community for its human rights record.

4.1 The Non-Governmental Response to the Issue of Street Children

In virtually every town and city in Zimbabwe where there have been street children, churches and civil society has responded to assist the children, some with greater impact than others. Across the country there are twelve NGOs assisting street children alongside the Task Forces. I worked with Scripture Union to establish the Thuthuka Street Children's Project in Bulawayo, the Simukai Street Youth Programme in Mutare (in partnership with Family Aids Caring Trust) and the Chiedza Street Children's Project in Masvingo. Each of these projects carried the same values but was constructed differently due to the needs of the children in these cities, the reasons why they were on the streets, and the general context. When I left Zimbabwe we had a 69% success rate of rehabilitating street children and resettling them with their families or in supported accommodation.

Currently many organisations have to focus on locating the children with whom they were working. In my opinion, the main challenges that these projects were facing leading up to this new situation were:

1. Containing the numbers of street children (numbers are increasing due to the worsening situation in Zimbabwe).
2. Funding issues as many donors have left the country.
3. Competition between themselves rather than cooperation leading to a lack of strategic planning across cities and also across the country.
4. A need for increased capacity in the area of psychosocial support and therapy.
5. A decimated government Department of Social Welfare as the Zimbabwean environment forced government staff to take jobs out side the country.
6. Government resistance to granting birth certificates to orphans.

5. Global Opportunity

In February 2005, a steering committee was formed to look at the possibility of developing a global strategy with street children. The Global Strategy with Street Children team consists of representatives from organisations working with street children directly or indirectly. The first task that we completed was to survey 20 other key people in the field to ascertain their experiences around certain issues.

One of the questions asked was "What do you believe are the greatest barrier(s) to collective or coordinated action on street children?" The overwhelming response was **lack of cooperation between agencies and lack of cooperation from governments**. The situation in both Zimbabwe and Uganda clearly demonstrates both problems.

Another question was asked, "In your experience, what are the main challenges that projects working with street children face? The main responses were to do with **training, support and resources**. My own experiences bear testimony to this.

As a result of this feedback and ensuing discussions, a global strategy with street children is emerging. A meeting of 17 experts in the field, representing 12 NGOs working across the world, will be held between September 29th and October 1st, 2005.

The strategy being proposed is simple in design. It proposes to develop teams in hub cities in 14 regions of the world, who will:

1. Strengthen, support and connect existing street children's projects.
2. Motivate and train new projects and workers.
3. Research and advocate.
4. Facilitate strategic citywide and countrywide responses.
5. Encourage innovative initiatives.

A small/resourcing team will support these Regional Teams. It is hoped that by establishing these teams, work amongst street children will be improved and expanded, the aim being to reach all of the street children of the world in a systematic and strategic manner.

6. Recommendations

Current international legislation makes it abundantly clear that the rights of street children are to be protected, as enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the

African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. What is important is how this converts into practise. How does this translate into protecting and assisting street children today? Children like those mentioned in this statement. Responses should ensure that the children's best interests are central. In addition they should include appropriate input from the children themselves and be strategic involving cooperation of key stakeholders. In the light of the above we make the following recommendations for the Congress and the wider international community:

- 1. It is vital that the United States Government and the international community engage with these issues because these children are the most vulnerable to exploitation and abuse and are unprotected by many of their governments. Therefore we recommend that the *Global Strategy with Street Children* receive the full, public endorsement of this committee, support of the US Congress, and support of the international community.**
- 2. There is a desperate need for strategic citywide and countrywide pilot programs, that are well researched and implemented, and that can be duplicated in other nations. Therefore we recommend that the US Government through USAID, and other appropriate agencies, fund research that leads to comprehensive and strategic initiatives that foster cooperation between NGOs, and between NGOs and governments.**
- 3. Many problems associated with assisting street children relate to problems of resourcing, support and coordination. Therefore we recommend that the international community, including the United States, provide financial support for local in-country projects that work with street children.**
- 4. The situation in Zimbabwe affects not just the street children but also the entire population and makes efforts to protect and assist the street children virtually impossible. Therefore we recommend that the US Government strongly press the regime of Robert Mugabe to restore democracy, the rule of law, and basic human rights for all people in Zimbabwe.**
- 5. While the situation in Uganda is not as extreme, democratic ideals, translated into the treatment of street children, are not fully entrenched. Therefore we recommend that the US Government call for a full review of the Ugandan Government's policy on street children, urge the Ugandan Government to immediately suspend its street round-ups, and, with all due respect to the leadership of the First Lady of Uganda, encourage the restructuring of the Kamparingisa Rehabilitation Home so that it is run by an independent board that operates with transparency and all the necessary resources for the proper rehabilitation of children of the streets.**

ⁱ Consortium on Street Children UK, www.streetchildren.co.uk

ⁱⁱ Taçon, P., *A UNICEF response to the needs of abandoned and street children*, unpublished, Geneva, UNICEF, 1985:3,4

ⁱⁱⁱ Kilbourn, P., (ed), *Street Children, A Guide to Effective Ministry*, MARC, 1997:11,12

^{iv} Liebel, 1994:24

^v Cosgrove, J., *Towards a working definition of street children*, International Social Work, Vol. 33:185-192, 1990

^{vi} Ibid.

^{vii} Connolly, M., and Ennew, J., (eds), *Children out of place*, special issue of Childhood, Vol. 3, 1996

^{viii} UNICEF UK Committee, Information Sheet on Street Children, January 1998

^{ix} Kilbourn, P., (ed), *Children in Crisis: A New Commitment*, MARC, 1996:21

^x Child Hope, *Testimony to the House Select Sub-Committee on Hunger*, 1991
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^{xi} The Civil Society Forum for East and Southern Africa on Promoting and Protecting the Rights of Street Children, February 2002

^{xii} Chalke, S. and Dixon, P., *Special Report on HIV AIDS*, OASIS, 2004

^{xiii} Per Engebak, UNICEF, *Alpha Orphans Generation Report*, Plus News, August 2004

^{xiv} CSCUK website

^{xv} Uganda, Lonely Planet Publications, 2004

^{xvi} www.iExplore.com

^{xvii} Refugee Law Project, *Behind the Violence: Causes, Consequences and the Search for Solutions to the War in Northern Uganda*, RLP Working Paper No. 11, February 2004:13

^{xviii} AVERT, www.avert.org

^{xix} Tibajuka, A. K., UN Envoy on Human Settlement Issues, *Report of the Fact Finding Mission to Zimbabwe, to Assess the Scope and Impact of Operation Murambatsvina*, July 2005.

^{xx} www.zwnews.com